
Haider wins Sportsmanship Award

Syed Haider of Palm Coast FL won the Bridge Base Online Sportsmanship Award.

Haider, 16, is new to the Youth NABC and fairly new to bridge. He and partner Brayden Dobbins have only been playing eight or nine months.

"He's a very chill and honest guy," Dobbins said. "Every time we play, he makes the air not so tense. It's fun playing with Syed. He does deserve it."

Players are nominated for the award by their peers and chosen by tournament directors Jesse Laird, Carolyn Pinto and Cathy Hildebrand. Recipients have typically played in multiple Youth NABCs, giving them more time to make an impression.

Haider wasn't sure how he made one so quickly.

"Maybe with a joke here and there to

lighten the mood, and helping when someone dropped their bidding box," Haider said. "I'm not sure what I did to get this award, but I'm grateful for it."

Haider didn't know the award existed until he arrived in the playing area on Thursday and saw it was the biggest trophy. He nominated Eddy Qi, while Dobbins nominated Qi's partner Kurt Hoisie.

"He just had a good positive attitude, very helpful," Laird said. "He was a good role model for the other youths in the event."



Syed Haider

Haider is a senior at Flagler Palm Coast High School. The school lost its official bridge club when teacher Per Berg retired, but Berg still teaches bridge outside of school.

The award is a \$1000 scholarship from Bridge Base Online. Haider hopes to attend the University of Florida, where there is a bridge club that was started

by a Flagler Palm Coast alum.

"I don't see myself stopping," Haider said. "I just love the game so much. If I went to a college that didn't have a bridge club, I would start one. I just love bridge."
